Ashley Hill . Bristol
Oct 25. 1848.

Dear Sir.

I am urged by friend Miss Carpenter to send the accompanying verses to the "Liberty Bell". She says, "I suppose that it would be best to enclose it to Revd Saml May, to give it to the Editor." If therefore as a stranger, tho' not to your A. S. exertions, or to your letters to friends in England, I venture to intrude upon your time for a moment, she must be

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answerable for the liberty.

The verses were written in consequence of Miss C's request that I would insert something in her A. S. Album. I am no poet, as you will perceive; but, as I trifle with rhyme sometimes, I thought I could express more strongly than in prose such thoughts as must arise in every free mind when it contemplates the strange & unholy union of the ministry of the gospel of liberty & the defence of "social institutions"; the equality of Heaven & the un-righteous brutal degradation of the slave on earth.

If the verses do not suit the purpose of said Editor, I shall acquiesce in their rejection very calmly. I only consent to aid a holy work, if I may. I must leave the prosecutors of that work to judge.

Permit me one word with regard to foreign & domestic evils. I do not shut my eyes, while feeling sorrowful and indignant at American Slavery, to the condition of vast masses in my native country. It is with me a mournful and a fearful subject. My hope &

& consolation is that all classes are waking up to a perception of the evil, that educatn, in the comprehensive sense of the word, is enlightening the millions, & that time only is required to enable them to work out their own redemption from bondage to ignorance, poverty, & vice, there being not any "peculiar institution" demanding their everlasting degradation.

Wishing you every success in your merciful cause

I am
Dear Sir
yours very truly
Edwin Chapman.

Revd. S. May.

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Ans^d. Feb. 2. '49

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BRISTOL

The Rev^d. Saml. May

Anti-Slavery Office

Boston

Massachusetts

America

1/-

Paid.

~~J. Hughes blank~~
~~& letter to Haughton~~

Send E. Chapman Bell & ~~Reports~~
" J. Lupton ~~Reports~~
" J. Haughton ~~Reports~~
" R. D. Webb Bell & ~~Reports~~
" Mrs. Carpenter ~~do~~
" J. McCartlin ~~do~~

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